

who have fought with courage and conviction for justice and equity, and it is because of them that we as a Nation have progressed.

The late Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink is one such person. Today I rise in support of H.R. 406 which celebrates the accomplishments of Congresswoman Mink and the passage of Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Title IX, also known as the Equal Opportunity in Education Act, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the administration of education programs.

Congresswoman Mink, a courageous champion of women's rights, once declared, "All persons regardless of their sex, must have enough opportunities open so that they can contribute as much to their lives and this society as they can." Mink served 12 terms in this House representing Hawaii, and throughout those 12 terms, she was steadfast in her commitment to social justice. Due to her stalwart conviction, Title IX and its enactment are responsible for increased educational opportunities for women and girls. As such, among women, high school graduation rates have risen to 85 percent, those earning bachelors degrees have reached 26 percent, and employment opportunities are ever improving. It is because of Title IX that our country's women and girls are able to pursue their dreams without the hindrances of institutionalized oppression. As a result of Title IX, our women are able to learn, grow, and thrive unapologetically.

It must, however, be noted that despite this undeniable progress, there still remains much work to be done. H.R. 406 enumerates the numerous arenas in which women must still battle for fair and equitable treatment. To this day, women are still victims of sexual harassment in the workplace, salary inequality in comparison to their male counterparts, and limited access to career opportunities in the fields of math and science. Let us not become complacent and find solace in the status quo, as true equality has yet to be attained.

The 35 years since enactment of Title IX can be lauded as 35 years of progress. We must continue to commemorate the legislatures and the legislation that propel our country forward. We must continue to work towards a future in which social ills such as bigotry and sex discrimination are of the past. Let us take pride in what has been accomplished by pioneers such as Congresswoman Mink while continuing the fight for equality, justice, and the realization of the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE ROLLE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to the service of others, Annette Rolle. Soon, she will retire after 37 years at the Cedars Medical Center located in Miami, FL. Ms. Rolle has served our community with great distinction, and for her years of service, we in South Florida are immeasurably thankful.

During Ms. Rolle's 37 years at Cedars Medical Center, she worked as a CRCS Technician, as the Assistant Director of Central Services and as the Central Services Manager.

She made it her mission to provide a higher standard of care for people in need. Ms. Rolle did all of these things out of her genuine care for people. She provides blood pressure screening to members of her church and encourages others to donate blood and become organ donors.

Her commitment to service is not only evident in her professional life but in her personal life as well; Ms. Rolle has been a faithful member of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, where her Pastor has been Reverend Dr. G. David Horton, for over twenty years. She serves as a member of the Pastor's Aide, Mission Ministry, Ushers' Ministry, Nurses' Guild and Sunday School Ministry.

Annette Rolle is the wife of the late Steven L. Rolle Jr.; the proud mother of two beautiful daughters, Alesia Evans and Stephanie S. Rolle; and the exuberant grandmother of La'Nesia Smith. Her extended family includes three stepchildren, Judy, Vonn, and Steven Rolle III.

Annette Rolle's compassion and concern for those less fortunate in our community are virtues that we all should aspire to. Ms. Rolle is a person of character, who saves lives both inside and outside of the hospital. Her life is an example to both young and old that living a life of purpose is the greatest achievement. She has given herself tirelessly to her church, community, and profession. Annette Rolle is a courageous spirit and is deserving of our accolades.

On behalf of a grateful community, I salute Annette Rolle. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon a new journey, and I wish her every happiness and success.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 155, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. "Juneteenth" is celebrated annually on June 19th to recognize the full emancipation of slaves in the State of Texas. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves across the country on January 1, 1863. Unfortunately, slaves in Texas did not feel the effect of this monumental decision until 2½ years later. The Emancipation Proclamation had little effect on African Americans in Texas due to the minimal number of Union troops that were present in Texas to enforce the new executive order.

The Union troops led by General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. Upon General Granger's arrival there was massive resistance from the slave owners, regarding the presence of Union troops in the State. Despite much opposition, Union forces soon became strong enough to influence and overcome that resistance. Granger said, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property be-

tween former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Madam Speaker, the injustice that was committed against the African American slaves held captive against their will was immense, as was the injustice committed against those held past the captivity date. Had General Gordon and his troops not taken the initiative to make the trip to Texas, there is no telling when these slaves would have realized their freedom.

I am compelled to recognize the historical significance of "Juneteenth" because the monumental date of June 19, 1865 represents the realization of freedom and justice for all. This date symbolizes the genius of our country's struggle to bring about a more perfect union, a struggle that continues to this very day. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and recognize the historical significance of the Juneteenth Independence Day.

HONORING THE LONG-TERM RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP) for the Cooperative Conservation award they received from the U.S. Department of Interior.

Established in 1986 through the Water Resources Development Act, the LTRMP plays a key role in the Environmental Management Program. It is implemented by the United States Geological Survey office in Onalaska, Wisconsin in cooperation with five Upper Mississippi River States: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

This model partnership of Federal, State and local agencies is an integral part of research done on the Upper Mississippi River System and a prime example of teamwork.

Congress recognized the Upper Mississippi River System as both a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system. Accordingly, the mission of the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program is to provide decision makers with the information needed to maintain the Upper Mississippi River System as a viable multiple-use large river ecosystem. The long-term goals are to understand the system, determine resource trends and impacts, develop management alternatives, manage information, and develop useful products.

The LTRMP, through six remote State-operated field stations, has provided critical data collection, analyses, research and modeling of the environmental components of vegetation, water levels and quality, fishes and invertebrates. It was one of the pioneers in geo-spatial information systems, documenting land use and land cover mapping and analysis. This data is vital for planning, design, and assessment of restoration and rehabilitation projects. It is the LTRMP that provides a knowledge base for effective, cost-efficient habitat projects and then documents their success.